

Contributions.

BRINGING SOULS TO CHRIST.

BY ARVILLA KIEFER.

Have we as followers of Christ, ever thought of this, how can I bring a soul to Christ? Are we trying to point the erring one to Jesus? We see on every hand those who are yet standing in darkness, who need a kind and encouraging word to bring them back to the light. Let us consider and think, when we were on the broad road which leads to destruction, how some kind one gave us an encouraging word and pointed us to Jesus. How can we repay them for their kindness. And yet will we not make an effort to bring some poor wanderer into the fold? Yet you may say, How can I? What can I do? Do what you can, for it is all that is asked of you; live such a life that you may by your good example throw a ray of light so that some poor wanderer may follow in your footsteps and again catch a glimpse of that bright light, and thus see his folly, and seek that better way. We are all placed here in this world for a noble purpose. We each have a work to perform. And are we doing our work? Or are we living in this world as a mere cipher not performing a single act of kindness to those around us, or leaving a single trace by which they may become useful, virtuous or charitable. When we look back in the decline of life and see how unprofitable we have been to ourselves, to our fellow-creatures and above all to our Creator, how miserable must such a reflection be. Yet we see from time to time, those who are comparing themselves with others saying, "I am just as good as he," and stop at this. They do not try to become better; they seem to be satisfied if they are standing on the same level with some of their fellow-men. They see and know they are living such a life that is not right. Yet they feel as if their fellow-men will bear them out on this; for they are leading a life which is no better. But, alas, the time will come when your work is finished and you are to receive your reward according to your works. Will you then be satisfied with your fellow-men's reward? If you were sat-

isfied to compare yourself with them and live a life as they did, you must also receive your reward with them. We find recorded in St. Matthew xvi, 27, "The Son of man shall come and he shall reward every man according to his works." Jesus is our perfect example. Why not compare our lives with his and live according to his word, that we may receive the reward that is promised to all them that are faithful. "Set your mark high and then strive to reach that mark." How can we bring the little children to Christ? We read in St. Matthew the xix chapter, St. Mark the 10th and also in Luke the xviii chapter, how little children were brought to Christ and how he laid his hands on them and blest them and said, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God." What a beautiful sight this must have been. We should earnestly try to bring the children to Jesus, for youth is the best time to seek the Lord, for then the heart is more tender; it is not yet hardened with sin, there are fewer bad habits to break off, and the danger grows greater every day of never becoming good. We never see an old Christian regret that he gave his heart to God in the days of his youth; but on the other hand when we find an old sinner whose race is nearly run he looks back with sorrow over the past and says, "Were I but young again, I would give my life for the service of my God. But ah! it is too late, the sands of life are nearly run" and he deeply regrets that he did not become a Christian in the days of his youth.

We should remember the words which are recorded in the Good Book. "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them." Our years are but few. If we knew that but a day remained for us to live and we had some great work which we could just finish in that period, with what industry would we labor to complete it. We would watch the sun's decline with fear and trembling. Yet life is but a day, and we all have more than enough work to perform. If we would finish our task we should lose not a moment. The

river of time rolls by without ceasing. It will not wait for us, when repenting of our idleness. We may desire to labor, but a voice will say it is too late. Alas! it will soon be too late—"for the night cometh when no man can work."

"Count that day lost whose low descending sun

Views from thine hands no worthy action done."

THE ACTIVE MEMBER.

C. F. YODER.

Paper read at First District Y. P. S. C. E. Convention.

I love to be in the midst of activity. I love to associate with active people and I am glad to say a few words concerning the active member in our societies. As a speaker said at our state S. S. convention three years ago, "I hate a fossil. It has not energy enough to rise up and smite you in the face when you tread upon it." In the struggle for life in this world that which is the most active survives. Activity is the condition of life. The thing that doesn't move is dead. The Christian that is not active is dead. Life is a moving principle and must manifest itself.

Henry Drummond says the difference between the Christian and the good moral man is the difference between a crystal and a shell. Both are beautiful and symmetrical but one was fashioned by a blind force and the other fashioned itself by a living force within. This is just the difference between an active and an inactive member. One is fashioned and the other fashions. One has no bad habits, the other has good ones. Now Christianity is not passive but active. Confucious taught, "What you would *not* like when done to you by others *do not* that to them." Any doll baby could do that. But mark you Christ taught "What ye would that others should do to you do ye even so to them." The Decalogue contains negative commandments because the world in that dispensation was ready for nothing higher, but Christ's commandments are positive. He taught "come," "go," "preach," "comfort," "heal," "bind up," "ask," "seek," "knock" and only on these conditions is the promise of finding and obtaining: "Ye ask and ye receive